

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT**

I. HEADING

Date: May 17, 1993
From: Kevin Matheis, Jack Harmon, *Kevin M Matheis*
On-Scene-Coordinators
USEPA, REGION II
To: C. Sidamon-Eristoff, EPA
W. Muzinski, EPA
K. Callahan, EPA
R. Salkie, EPA
G. Zachos, EPA
J. Rotola, EPA
ERD, Washington,
(E-Mail)
J. Marshall, EPA
M. Basile, EPA Niagara Falls,
E. Schaaf, EPA
P. Simon, EPA
E. Kissel, EPA
S. Becker, EPA
M. O'Toole, NYSDEC
A. Rockmore, NYSDEC
F. Shattuck, NYSDEC IX
E. Hess, NYSDEC IX
TAT

Subject: Frontier Chemical Processes, Inc., Niagara Falls,
Niagara County, NY - Cyanide, Oxidizers,
Corrosives, Halogenated & Non-Halogenated Solvents

POLREP NO: Eight (8)

II. BACKGROUND

SITE/SPILL NO.:	AY
D.O. NO.:	0026-02-036
RESPONSE AUTHORITY:	CERCLA/SARA
NPL STATUS:	Non-NPL
START DATE:	December 21, 1992
APPROVAL STATUS:	Verbal Authorization of Funding from Deputy Regional Administrator
STATUS OF ACTION MEMO:	Signed May 17, 1993

III. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Situation

1. See Polrep #1.

B. Actions Taken

1. During the weeks of May 3 and May 10, ERCS continued maintenance activities throughout the facility. Tasks include daily drum inspections, pumping secondary containment sumps through an on-site Granulated Activated Carbon (GAC) system to remove organic contamination, securing and overpacking leaking drums as needed and sustaining boiler and compressor operations. Water samples are collected daily from the on-site monitoring/collection station and stored for analysis as requested by the Niagara Wastewater Treatment plant.
2. During the week of May 3, ERCS overpacked four (4) leaking drums containing hazardous substances.
3. On Thursday, May 6, ERCS discovered a small leak on a flange gasket located midway down the side of Tank R-301. Tank R-301 is a reactor used in the process of converting cyanides into cyanates; it currently contains approximately 6,000 gallons of a cyanate solution. The EPA instructed TAT to air monitor the contents using Draeger tubes, which revealed negative results. At the OSC's request, a sample of the liquid was taken by ERCS and sent to a lab for cyanide analysis which proved negative. As a result of these findings, on Wednesday, May 12, ERCS emptied the contents of the tank to just below the gasket into a tanker truck, repaired the gasket and pumped the contents back into the Tank R-301.
4. EPA and TAT completed a volumetric list detailing the volume waste contributed by each generator. The information was mailed to the ORC and PSB and will be used as an attachment to the Notice letters when they are mailed to the PRPs.
5. ERCS processed rainwater from 150 empty drums that remain at the site. The drums were left outside and have collected a significant amount of potentially contaminated rainwater. The water is treated through a portable six-cubic foot carbon adsorption system prior to the final polish by the on-site GAC system. The water is pumped into the 100,000 gallon holding tanks

pending discharge. Analysis of the treated water met the terms and conditions of the POTW permit analytical levels for discharge.

6. Drums which could not be processed due to sludge and/or a high organic content continue to be consolidated on-site. Full drums are currently being stored in Building #70 until further action.
7. On May 13 and May 18, Harbison Brothers, Inc. (a drum recycler) removed 260 RCRA-empty drums. A total of approximately 1,400 empty drums have been sent off-site to date.
8. On May 17, the Action Memorandum was signed by the Acting Regional Administrator.

C. Key Issues

The NYSDEC has issued a Notice of Hearing and Notice of Motion for Summary Order to Frontier Chemical and the management company, Eagle Vision Environmental. The Notice of Hearing regards the permit revocation hearing that will be presented in front of a NYSDEC Administrative Law Judge. The NYSDEC will present a case as to why the permit to operate a Hazardous Waste facility at this address should be revoked. Eagle Vision will be allowed to present a case as to why the facility should remain open. The hearing is scheduled for May 24, 1993.

D. Future Actions

ERCS continues to consolidate the liquid contents of drums with closed tops. Drums containing inextractable solid sludges will have the lids taken off, sludges removed, drums rinsed, and the empty drums will be sent off-site for recycling.

IV. COST INFORMATION:

	Amount Budgeted	Cost To Date Obligated to DCN# 932AKE0004, DCN# 932AKE0010, DCN# 932AKE0031	Amount Remaining
Cleanup Contractor			
DCN# 932AKE0004	\$ 900,000	\$ 684,500	\$ 215,500
DCN# 932AKE0010			
DCN# 932AKE0031			
<u>EPA/TAT</u>	<u>\$ 250,000</u>	<u>\$ 217,000</u>	<u>\$ 33,000</u>
SITE TOTAL	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 901,500	\$ 248,500